



## **Committee Schedule of Veterans Interest Week of April 14 - 18, 2014**

From Friday, April 11 to Tuesday, April 22, the Senate and House of Representatives will be on a Passover/Easter break. There will be no committee hearings.

## **State Legislative Update for the Week of April 7 - 11, 2014**

*Friday, April 4, 2014*

### **House Session**

**HF3167**, the Omnibus Supplemental Tax bill, passed, as amended, on a vote of 125 to 0. Sections of Veterans interest include the following:

- extends the time period for the surviving spouse of a totally disabled veteran to continue to receive the disabled veteran's property tax benefit from five years to eight years. This section provides the same extension for surviving spouses of military personnel who are killed in action.
- extends the existing military pay subtraction to National Guard members in Active Guard/Reserve status and individuals in active status under the state adjutant general, effective for tax year 2014 and following years.

The bill was sent to the Senate where it received its first reading and was referred to the Finance Committee.

*Monday, April 7, 2014*

### **Senate Session**

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None

### **House Session**

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None

A motion was made and passed to accede to the request of the Governor for a Joint Convention to hear the State of the State message of the Governor at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 23, 2014. The Senate is invited to meet in Joint Convention at 6:45 p.m. in the House chambers.

### **Committee Hearings**

Committee: House Ways and Means

Chair: Rep. Lyndon Carlson

**HF1916** (Newton): Special women veterans license plates authorized, and money appropriated. The bill, as amended, passed and was placed on the General Register.

Committee: Senate Finance

Chair: Sen. Richard Cohen

**HF3167** (Skoe): Omnibus supplemental tax bill. The bill was referred to the Committee on Taxes.

***Tuesday, April 8, 2014***

### **Senate Session**

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None

The Senate passed **HF3172**, the Omnibus supplemental budget bill, 37-27. Provisions of Veterans interest included:

- military veterans resident tuition;
- \$50,000 in FY15 for de-escalation training for state and local community safety personnel assist veterans returning from combat service in their re-entry into society;
- \$150,000 for developing and implementing a certification program for veteran-owned small businesses;
- \$250,000 for up to five grants of \$50,000 each to conduct a housing needs assessment for veterans;
- \$125,000 to the Humanities Center for the Veterans' Voices program to educate and engage the community regarding veterans' contributions, knowledge, skills and experiences; and,
- expedited and temporary licensing for former and current military members.

### **House Session**

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None

### **Committee Hearings**

Committee: House Ways and Means

Chair: Rep. Lyndon Carlson

**HF2852** (Dill): Game and Fish Bill. The bill, as amended, passed and was placed on the General Register.

Committee: Senate Taxes

Chair: Sen. Rod Skoe

**HF3167** (Skoe): Omnibus supplemental tax bill. The bill passed, as amended.

***Wednesday, April 9, 2014***

## **Senate Session**

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None

## **House Session**

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None

The House did not concur with the Senate amendments on **HF3172** so a Conference Committee of five House members was appointed. The members are: Rep. Carlson, Rep. Huntley, Rep. Mahoney, Rep. Marquart and Rep. Wagenius. The five Senate conferees are: Senator Cohen, Senator Tomassoni, Senator Lourey, Senator Wiger, and Senator Bonoff.

## **Committee Hearings**

Committee: Senate State Departments and Veterans Division

Chair: Sen. Tom Saxhaug

**SF2951** (Saxhaug): Military and veterans affairs capital renovation and repair projects bond issue and appropriation. For the Department of Veterans Affairs, \$4,040,000 is appropriated from the bond proceeds as follows:

- \$1,500,000 for asset preservation improvements and betterments of a capital nature at veterans homes statewide;
- \$700,000 to complete the design of perform repairs to stabilize the structural integrity of and waterproof the deep tunnel on the Minneapolis Veterans Homes campus;
- \$1,840,000 to complete the design of and perform improvements to resident rooms and renovate the nursing station in the Luverne Veterans Home, and to complete the design of and renovate resident bathrooms in the Silver Bay Veterans Home.

For the Department of Military Affairs, \$7,625,000 is appropriated from the bond proceeds as follows:

- \$5,000,000 for asset preservation improvements and betterments of a capital nature at military affairs facilities statewide;
- \$1,244,000 to renovate existing space and to construct an addition to, furnish and equip the Brooklyn Park Armory; and
- \$1,381,000 to renovate, furnish, and equip existing space and construct motor vehicle storage lot space at the Owatonna Armory.

The \$11,665,000 combined allocation for the Departments of Military Affairs and Veterans Affairs was included in a memorandum to Senator Stumpf, Chair of the Senate Capital Investment Committee, for possible inclusion in the Omnibus Bonding Bill.

***Thursday, April 10, 2014***

## **Senate Session**

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None

**HF3167**, the Omnibus supplemental tax bill, was placed on Special Orders. The bill passed, as amended, on a vote of 57-6. Of Veterans interest are the following provisions:

- a tax credit is allowed equal to \$200 for each month or portion thereof that the individual was in active military service in a designated area after December 31, 2013, while a Minnesota domiciliary; and,
- the tax credit for a qualified individual for past military service is increased from \$750 to \$1,500. The tax credit is reduced by ten percent of adjusted gross income in excess of \$30,000.

The House did not concur on the Senate amendments so a Conference Committee of five House members and five Senate members was appointed. The House members are: Rep. Lenczewski, Rep. Davnie, Rep. Davids, Rep. Torkelson and Rep. Slocum. The Senate members are: Sen. Skoe, Sen. Rest, Sen. Dziedzic, Sen. Koenen, and Sen. Gazelka.

### **House Session**

Bill introduction of Veterans interest: None

The following bills were processed on the House floor:

**HF2092**, a bill authorizing a veterans special motorcycle plate for combat wounded veterans, was read for the third time and placed on final passage. The bill passed on a vote of 128-0.

**HF2812**, a bill creating Veterans' Voices Month, was read for the third time and placed on final passage. The bill passed on a vote of 131-0.

**HF2556**, a bill for act for veterans housing and long-term care, providing exemptions for certain moratoriums on new residential facilities and providing grants for housing needs assessments for veterans, was passed on a vote of 130-0.

### **Committee Hearings**

Committee: Senate Finance

Chair: Sen. Richard Cohen

**SF1978** (Johnson, A.): Women veterans special license plates establishment and appropriation. The bill passed and was placed on General Orders.

**SF2071** (Sheran): Combat wounded veterans motorcycle plates authorization. The bill passed and was placed on General Orders.